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Date: 9/24/2014 8:09:15 AM

Subject: OPA Morning Clips - 9/24/14

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Report: Higher cancer rates in areas near Cold Water Creek (video) - 9/23/14 - Data released from the Department of Health and Senior Services confirms what people who have lived near Cold Water Creek have been saying for years. They feared the rare cancers they were getting at an early age were directly related to radioactive contamination in the creek. But that data also has some mixed messages. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/09/23/cold-water-creek-north-st-louis-county-cancer-rates-report/16113757/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - State now asks for inquiry into North County cancers - 9/24/14 - In a sharp shift, state health officials are asking for help to investigate whether high rates of cancers in north St. Louis County are linked to nuclear contamination of Coldwater Creek, which residents have long feared is causing rare illnesses. http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/health/state-now-asks-for-inquiry-into-north-county-cancers/article_f2de6a33-f482-5d2a-9797-b7dd2f662ce1.html

KMOV Ch. 4 St. Louis - Report shows elevated cancer rates around Coldwater Creek - 9/23/14 - A new survey, released Tuesday, shows high rates of Leukemia, breast, colon and other cancers in the areas around Coldwater Creek and West Lake Landfill. The creek was contaminated by nuclear waste after World War II. <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Report-finds-increased-cancer-cases-near-St-Louis-County-creek-276836791.html>

Des Moines Register - Guest Opinion: Iowa well-positioned with wind to meet EPA's Clean Power - 9/24/14 - Wind power is a big deal in Iowa. It's also a very good deal, considering Iowa's world-class wind resources and its manufacturing base. That makes wind energy a low-cost tool to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan, the first national effort to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2014/09/24/iowa-view-wind-power/16136597/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

The Hill - Vitter: Drowning our property rights: EPA's misuse of the Clean Water Act - 9/14/14 - In several different ways, President Obama's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is using and abusing the Clean Water Act to improperly block economic development projects and take away Americans' property rights. <http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/218663-drowning-our-property-rights-epas-misuse-of-the-clean-water-act>

Newton Daily News (Iowa) - No decision from EPA on 2014 RFS - 9/23/14 - Although most of the year has already passed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency still hasn't made a final decision on the 2014 Renewable Fuel Standard. <http://www.newtondailynews.com/2014/09/22/no-decision-from-epa-on-2014-rfs/ajs985x/>

Washington Times - Opinion: Phony 'environmental justice' at EPA - 9/23/14 - Secretary of State John F. Kerry recently called climate change "the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction." The Environmental Protection Agency says it is "happening right now." Based on these and other dubious claims, EPA issued rules shutting down hundreds of coal-fired power plants and preventing new ones from being built. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/sep/23/driessen-phony-environmental-justice-at-epa/>

Scripps Howard Wire - Proposed EPA Water Rules Have Farmers Worried - 9/23/14 - Farmers are wondering if proposed environmental water guidelines could complicate their work and raise the price of food for consumers. <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/59927/>

Politico - Obama offers few climate details - 9/24/14 - Perhaps the most interesting thing about President Barack Obama's climate change speech at the United Nations is what he didn't say. Obama delivered a forceful but largely detail-free speech. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/09/barack-obama-climate-change-pitch-111273.html>

Des Moines Register

Opinion: Iowa well-positioned with wind to meet EPA's Clean Power

By Steve Lockard
September 23, 2014

Wind power is a big deal in Iowa. It's also a very good deal, considering Iowa's world-class wind resources and its manufacturing base. That makes wind energy a low-cost tool to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan, the first national effort to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants.

The draft EPA proposal leaves it up to individual states as to how they want to reduce emissions, and Iowa is well positioned to protect existing jobs, create new ones and make the state more competitive by expanding wind energy as a central feature of its plan.

"As wind energy grows, so does the economy." That's what Gov. Terry Branstad said after the Des Moines-based MidAmerican Energy, Iowa's largest utility, announced plans last year to spend close to \$2 billion to install hundreds of wind turbines in Iowa. That equals the largest economic development project in Iowa's history.

Wind power's total contribution to Iowa's economy is impressive, adding \$10 billion in capital investment to date and supporting thousands of jobs statewide. Our company, TPI Composites, builds large blades for wind turbines in Iowa. Our manufacturing facility in Newton now supports more than 800 jobs and, since our facility opened six years ago, workers at the plant have told us how much these jobs have meant to their community.

Iowa is blessed with strong wind resources. Over 27 percent of Iowa's electricity now comes from reliable wind power, making it number one in the U.S. in terms of wind penetration. Keeping Iowa lights on with wind power cuts the expense of producing electricity by displacing the most expensive, least efficient power sources on the grid.

MidAmerican's investment to help Iowa harvest more wind power is expected to save customers up to \$10 million per year once built. Wind energy also has no fuel cost, protecting consumers from the volatile price of other energy sources.

Iowa farmers call wind farms their drought-resistant cash crop. Over \$16 million a year in wind farm lease payments to Iowa landowners creates added economic security.

Wind farms also help Iowa farmers by not competing for sometimes scarce water resources. Producing electricity with wind energy emits no air pollution and uses virtually no water, saving billions of gallons of water a year by taking the place of other sources that are heavy water users.

Iowa is in the top five states nationally in tons of carbon dioxide emissions reduced through wind energy, with emissions reduced by nearly 14 percent. These reductions have already put Iowa in a strong position to meet the EPA's new carbon reduction plan, and additional wind turbines will cost-effectively bring Iowa into compliance.

Carbon-free wind energy can be sold to other states that lack Iowa's world-class wind resources but want to cost-effectively reduce their emissions.

Thanks to leadership by Republican and Democratic Iowa policymakers, wind energy has been a great asset for creating jobs and diversifying Iowa's energy mix. Gov. Branstad, Sens. Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin, and Reps. Steve King, Tom Latham, Bruce Braley and Dave Loebsack, understood wind power's potential early on and Iowa is now reaping the benefits.

If legislators in other states use Iowa as a model, they too can embrace the economic benefits that go with tapping into carbon-free electricity.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

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